FROM SPARK TO SPACE

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -- since 1917

July, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 07

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From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

Dave DeFebo

At the June board meeting we came to some decisions about our money concerns. While everyone will receive this issue of the newsletter in the mail (with a new roster), beginning with the next issue, those with email will only receive an email announcement of a new Chatter (and a link to click to go to our web page). Starting in January of 2001, we will go to a 6 week schedule of newsletter publishing. That means we will publish 8 newsletters in a year instead of 11 (we always skipped December). Doing both of those things will cut newsletter costs from just over $1700 to just less than $1000. That means newsletter costs will actually be less than dues income.

Also in the realm of saving money, it was decided that while the repeater is nice to have, we can't afford to pay rent for a location. As a result, we will only pursue a location for the repeater which is rent free. Actually we are in discussions with a couple of possible locations. One or the other may work out, or maybe neither will. We'll see.

I should have mentioned this last month, but at the May meeting I was informed of the passing of Walt Reid - W9CUZ. Walt was not a member of our club. I mention him be

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670 -	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045 +	W9RH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800 +	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910 -	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at **344-4694** or call::

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

HAMATEURCHATTER is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are $15.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our **Club/VEC Phone** no. is **(262) 797-MRAC**.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 25707
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.
the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

cause (besides being President, I can) back in my early years on 2M FM I spoke with Walt many times. I lived on 28th and National and Walt lived at the VA Hospital. Simplex was easy for us (since there were almost no repeaters) especially while I walked to the restaurant where I worked while attending school. Walt lived at the VA because, due to a bout with polio, he could only move some fingers on one hand. I never knew that from our conversations. The disability did not stop him from being a ham and operating on HF and VHF. Eventually he left the VA and other than seeing him at some hamfests (yes, hamfests) I hadn't spoken to him in years. He was recently living in Oshkosh. While Walt did not have life as easy as most of us, he always was in good spirits. He was 68 years old. At least he has some physical relief now, but his spirit will always live on.

And news of yet another amateur (and a club member) passing. Recently Ken Jacobchick - W9CCZ passed away. Unfortunately I can't make much of a speech on this man, as I really did not know him. That does not mean he was not important, only that our paths never really crossed. If you knew him, please express your own thoughts, in private or even here in the newsletter (Pancho is always looking for material).

If you missed the June meeting you missed the presentation of a certificate of appreciation to Dick McNew - WB9PTC for his work in on-air code practice, helping new hams, and in promoting amateur radio. If you do something extraordinary, we will recognize it. Thanks Dick.

What with all the Chatter work and decisions, I promised I would trim down my editorials (due to the just completed elections, you are stuck with them for another 2 years). I don't do this just to read my words in print or to hear myself speak. I do this to try to stir up some activity in the club. Maybe everything I say or do does not please everyone, but it beats sitting in the back of the room and mumbling to yourself (besides I can sit home and mumble to myself all I want). Sometime back I extended an offer for anyone wishing to editorialize on their own here in the Chatter. I don't think I've seen any of those. How about it?

David B. McNew

MRAC Field Day 2000

What a beautiful weekend we had! The temperature was just right and very few mosquitoes. Barbara - KB9TIV, gave us all a very special treat, hot food! Pancho - KA9OFA and John - WB9PSE had a solar charged station this year and it worked very well. The battery stayed at peek charge all the time during the day. Brian brought his tracking station again and we had two club stations. Several other brought their own stations and antennas. I want to thank everyone for helping with all the antennas and for keeping the place neat. We received a letter from Fred Linn - W9NZF thanking us for keeping the place in one piece and a invitation to come back again next year. We also received some nice E-Mail and letters from our members that they had a nice time.

Jim WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU

Field Day Score

Here is the preliminary summary of our Y2K Field Day score.

CW Contacts		42
Phone Contacts		448
Total Contacts		490
Total Points		532
Power Multiplier	2	= 1064
Media Publicity		100
W1AW Bulletin		100
Solar Power		100
Public Place		100
APRS Station		100
Total Points		1564

73 de K9LCQ

MRAC Board Meeting 6/26/Y2K

Treasurers report — $2,268.85 plus our CD. Total $7,784.91 plus monies in the VEC fund. The club CD will mature in August. The club's bank account has 4 authorization names on it. Ken, Les, Dave and Jim. Ken - W9MOT also reports that he has only 4 club patches left. If you want one, ask quick!!!

The next board meeting locations will be as follows — Matt in July, John in August, Jim in September and Dave in October.

Brian - K9LCQ has the new club roster ready. It will be included in the next Chatter. He will try to hand out as many as possible at the meeting and mail the rest. The treasurer has renewed our P.O. Box for $64.00.

Tom's VEC report — John - KF9XL can do the electronic filing now as a back up to Tom. Tom - KF9PU will be attending the NCVEC conference this year on July 21st. The next MRAC sponsored test session will be at the end of September.

The club Chatter will be mailed only to the people that do not want to receive it electronically. Next year there will be only 8 Chatters. One about every 6 weeks. This will bring the cost of the Chatter in line with the dues that we collect every year. There will be a list of all meeting dates in the Chatter for the whole year. Every year there will be one Chatter that is mailed to everyone because it includes the club roster.

Brian - K9LCQ is checking on the availability of a classroom at WCTC. A minimum class size of 7 will be required before we will organize a session. CW classes will be taught over the air.

Class start date and length is yet to be determined. Dick - WB9PTC may do another CW class over the air.

The club's repeater will stay where it is until we find a free location more centrally located in the city. Paying rent for a repeater site is not an option at this time due to lack of use and funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

Jim - WB9LNU, Secretary

events (upcoming)

*** indicates VE testing**

RadioFest XIX
(Antique Radios)
FRI.-SUN. AUG. 4-6, 2000
Ramada Hotel
Elgin, IL

4th Annual!!
Circus City SwapFest *
SAT. - AUG. 12, 2000
Sauk Co. Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
T/I on147.315 Repeater (+) PL 123.0

BIRTHDAYS

Bette Schlesinger	KB9JML	8/09
John D.Merkl	WB9PSE	8/10
Robert L. Willett	K9UML	8/19
Thomas M. Schulte	WB9PSE	8/19
Verne Teske	W9RYA	8/22
David B. DeFebo	WB9BWP	8/22
Erwin G. Reiser	K9CUI	8/27
Joseph G. Rayome	KE9LL	8/28
Fr William J. Kidd, S.J.	NE9W	8/29
James A. Schmidt	KB9IIH	8/31
Fred A. Linn	W9NZF	8/31

73,

Brian - K9LCQ

¡¡ Happy Birthday !!

MRAC Club Meeting 6/30/00

The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

No previous minutes were read due to no business meeting in May.

Treasurers report -- Our new treasurer did not have all the files yet from Ken, our parting treasurer. The total recorded at the board meeting was $2,268.85 plus the club CD and the VEC fund. The club will have a new P.O. Box located near our new Treasurer's QTH. The new box number will be in the next Chatter.

Dave - WB9BWP says that we made about $140 for the club at the auction in May. Dave welcomed our new Treasurer and all members who were re-elected and appointees to the board.

Brian - K9LCQ reports that it was an experience to be Chairman of Field Day. He had fun and everyone else did also. He gave special thanks to Barb for the hot lunch and breakfast the following morning. Barb was also the only operator still on the air at 3 in the morning.

Brian will have the roster ready for distribution in the next Chatter.

Tom - KF9PU will be attending the NCVEC conference this year on July 21st. The conference will have talks on band restructuring and other topics.

Dave informed the members of the board's decision to have only 8 Chatters next year. This reduction will save the club about $700.00 The Chatters will contain all the meeting dates for the whole year starting in January. They will come out every 6 weeks instead of every 4 weeks.

The club repeater will stay where it is for now. Any new site will have to be rent free since the club uses all it's dues for Field Day, Christmas Party, Chatter's and operating expenses.

The Board is trying to set up something in the way of classes for members to up grade and for new hams. CW classes will be taught over the air. If we can organize quickly, we are looking at October to start classes. More on this in the next Chatter.

Dave, our President presented Dick - WB9PTC with a certificate of appreciation for all his past efforts to teach CW over the air. And for promoting MRAC. Dick got a standing ovation from the membership.

Dave auctioned off more equipment donated to the club by Del Clark. Del has been very generous to the club these past years. THANK YOU Del!!!

Warren, K9IZV reports that we have 38 in attendance at the meeting tonight.

Verne, W9RYA will make the clubs Christmas Party reservations for December 3rd. He will put $250.00 down to hold the room. The party will be located at the Patio Club at 1421 E. Howard.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Matt - KB9PRC gave a talk on Decibels.

Thanks to Tom and Jacquie for doing the raffle and to our kitchen crew for the coffee, soda and donuts.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP **K9LCQ** W9MOT
KB9PRC **WB9LNU** W9NZF

Thanks to Rita Doneis for her help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to John Merkl and Barbara Brewer for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

We would also like to thank Alfred Huwald, and Myron Hendrickson for taking care of the refreshments at our meetings.

Also our thanks goes to Tom Scherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

And a Big Thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Many thanks!!

Christmas Party

Vern Teske - W9YRA has been working on plans for the Christmas party.

He has has reserved the Patio Club at 1421 E. Howard Ave. for Sunday - December 3. We will gather at 5:00 PM. and Dinner will be at 6:00 PM.

Early Mormon Telegraph by Fred Linn - W9NZF

Brigham Young led the 1840 Mormon trek to Utah, and was responsible for building a network of telegraph lines to settlements remotely located, after the Civil War. He could not get wire, batteries, insulators, and instruments during the war and as manpower was scarce, he was delayed until 1866, The Mormons fled to escape religious persecution, but Young was not to leave his scattered flock out of communication very long.

Wester Union sought his influence in building a line thru Utah and Young acted as their contractor in supplying labor and material for their project. Mormons furnished poles for a 1000 mile line, as well as food, feed, and transportation.

The W.U. lines, spliced at Salt Lake City in 1961 provided coast-to-coast communication. Young added to the project by building a line connecting 100 remote settlements, waiting till 1866 for material. He created the only regional system completely owned by a church. Each ward pledged a share of labor and cash (much of the cash was furnished as poles, which they cut from the mountains). Pole spec's were "22 ft. long, 8" dia. at the bottom, and 5" at the top. They were set 4 ft. into the ground at 70 yd. intervals. Each ward wanting an operator was to send 2 persons to a school in Salt Lake City (The instructor was a Western Union operator who later became a Mormon convert). The first woman student was Estelle Parks, receiving 50 bushels of wheat, in addition to board and room (wheat to be delivered to her father!. Some congregations paid students $50/mo. in produce or livestock-another receiving compensation in "Voluntary Contributions"!

Poles were set by Oct. '66, with wire-stringing following on their heels. Labor was donated in almost every instance. 300 miles of line between Salt Lake and St. George (Arizona/Nevada border) was completed by Jan. 1867, the remaining line was completed in 30 days.

As Mormon settlements and mining operations were completed, the lines followed, and by 1880, 995 miles were completed, with 68 offices in operation. Lines were extended to towns in Idaho and ran 100 miles into northeastern Nevada. The first line into Arizona (1880), was to cross the border into Arizona Territory.

After the lines were in operation, Young spent most of his winters in the mile-high desert at St. George's, trading Nevada's cold winter for Arizona's mile-high mild climate. He discovered that he could run the churches' affairs by telegraph (one of his wives was a proficient operator!).

Although the Desert Telegraph Co. was hugely successful, it was never profitable, as the free service provided to the church business, as well as all of Young's personal and community social correspondence proved to be quite a "drag".

At one point, the church property including the telegraph lines and equipment was confiscated in an attempt to disband the church (as it condoned polygamy). After 6 years of litigation, the property was returned, and in 1900, the system was sold to Western Union for $10,000. It had operated successfully for 34 years.

Paraphrased from the publication "Dots & Dashes", a newsletter published by the Morse Telegraph Club.

New P.O. Box

Since we had to change our box number anyway (due to construction on our old location) and we have a new Treasurer, we decided to obtain a box at a post office closer to our new treasurer.

Here is the new address:

MRAC

P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Upcoming Programs

The program for the July MRAC general meeting will be **Bill Lubitz** talking about "**Kit Building"**.

Look for these programs as features for future MRAC general membership meetings:

Warren Schall - K9IZV on "Cross Banding"
Gary Bargholz - N9UUR on "AMSAT"
Fred Linn - W9NZF on "Adjusting a Vibroplex"

MRAC

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - July 27, 2000 (Y2K)

7:30 PM

Program: **Elements of Kit Building** --
Bill Lubitz - W9EMC

Location: **Redemption Lutheran Church**
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church for information!!!

Board meeting: **Mon. -July 24, 2000**

Next meeting: **August 31, 2000**

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HamateurChatter
Deadline is
August 1, 2000

MRAC Getting Back Into (HAM) Classes

We have been talking about getting classes going again. We are working out details on 2 possible locations. If you are interested in helping out teaching classes (we will probably start with a General class) please contact Dave WB9BWP at wb9bwp@arrl.net. We would also like to step in and take the load off Dick McNew for his on-air code practice. If you would like to help in this area also contact Dave. We would like to get something going around October.

Note our **New Address**
MRAC
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our Repeater is an open one.
Use it or lose it!!!
147.045⁺ MHz

M. E. A. C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045⁺ offset
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